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*Connections 2008*



# CAREGIVING STATS

- Depending on definitions, estimates range from 9-54 million American caregivers; most cite 22 million people regularly providing care; 1 in 4 families caring for someone over age 50; numbers growing as population ages, medicine advances
- GA Family Caregivers 850,000 – 1.3 Million
- US \$350 B economic value (AARP, 2007) GA = \$12B
- Alzheimer's Association: 5 million Alz. Patients currently;
- Alz. Patients by 2050, 11.5-16 million
- Avg. lifespan post-dx: 8-10 years; 70% at home

# HEALTH EFFECTS OF CAREGIVING

- Consistent Research Findings:
  - higher prevalence of depression & anxiety, decreased immune system functioning, decreased use of preventative medical services;
  - insomnia,
  - musculoskeletal problems,
  - greater cardiovascular reactivity,
  - increased mortality
- Conclusion: growing public health concern

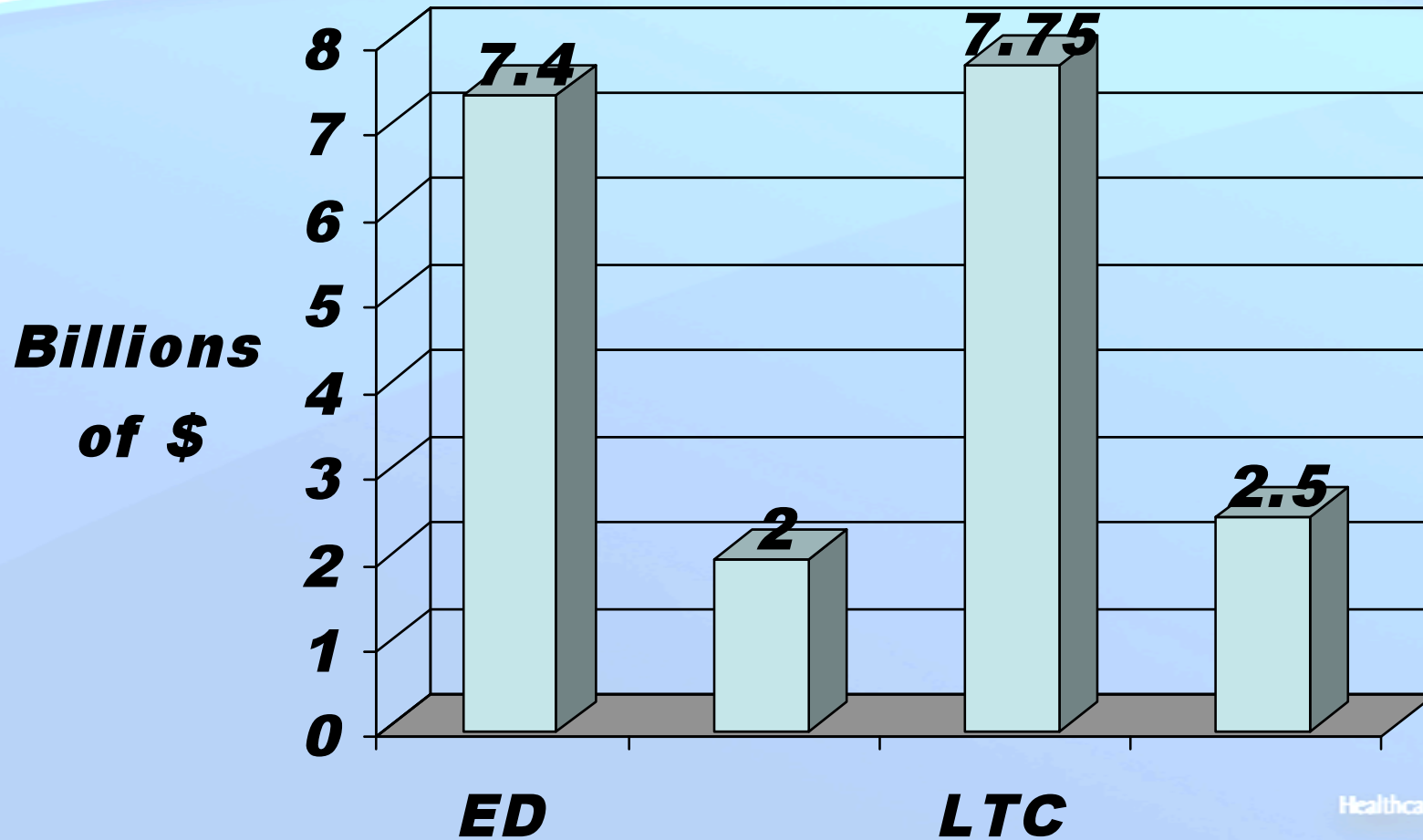
# GA Demographic Trends

- By 2025, 17% of Georgia's Population over 65 Years
- Increase of 143% over 65 compared to 47% for all ages in GA and 104% nationally
- GA in top 10 states in growth

# Demographic trends

- Fastest Growing: oldest, frailest, lowest income, limited education and chronic conditions
- Suburban and rural areas in lead
- 20% of Georgians have a cognitive, developmental or physical disability

# Relative Costs 2007 GA



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# Vision Loss in Georgia

**250,000** Georgians have severe vision problems.  
That number is expected to double by 2030.

**30,000** Georgians are blind

**220,000** Georgians have partial sight

**14,720** Georgians under 18 have vision impairment

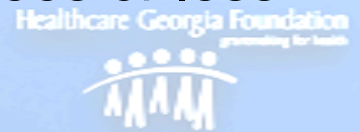
**21% of people with diabetes** report vision impairment



# Defining Vision Impairment:

- Inability to **recognize a friend** across the room, even when wearing glasses, or
- Inability to **read regular newspaper print**, even wearing glasses, or
- **Self-rated vision** as poor or very poor, even when wearing glasses, or
- **Blindness** in one or both eyes.

**Legal blindness** is a level of visual impairment that has been defined by law to determine eligibility for benefits. It refers to central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye **with the best possible correction** or a visual field of 20 degrees or less.





# Center for the Visually Impaired (CVI)

## **Mission**

To offer comprehensive services to promote independence with dignity and the preservation of self worth for individuals of any age who are blind or visually impaired

## **Classes and Services**

Pre-School Transition; Georgia Pre-K; STARS After School Program; Orientation and Mobility; Activities of Daily Living; Braille; Computer and Assistive Technology; Job Readiness; Career Services; Low Vision Clinic

## **Support groups**

Child and family groups for pre-school or school-aged children; Introduction to Vision Loss; Men's Group, Women's Group, Couple's Group; Diabetes Education; Macular Degeneration

## **Activities**

Children/family weekend activities, children's summer day camps, exercise classes, Beyond Sight Toastmasters Club, Book Club

## **VisAbility Store**

More than 1,000 items to promote independent living including practical household gadgets, toys and games, health management tools, magnifiers, accessible computer equipment

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